

investigating the causes of the deadly type of encephalitis prevalent in Mysore known as 'Kyasanur Forest Disease'; and

(b) how this disease spreads from place to place?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR): (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(b) The disease spreads from one place to another through infected ticks, carried by migrating monkeys, birds and forest rodents.

STATEMENT

The work done so far has confirmed the finding that it is caused by a virus belonging to the Russian Spring and Summer Encephalitis group of viruses. Though the virus produces encephalitis in many other parts of the world, the disease in Mysore State is not an encephalitis but is rather a haemorrhagic disease, since haemorrhages from the nose, throat, stomach and intestines are a noticeable feature of it. It has now been proved that the infection is primarily that of the rodents inhabiting the forest region and that men and monkeys are only accidentally infected. The infection is transmitted by the bite of a tick infesting the rodents. Men and monkeys get the infection when infected ticks bite them also. In view of the haemorrhagic manifestations in man, detailed haematological investigations were carried out in patients. These results have paved the way for a better understanding of the disease and the institution of a suitable treatment. Thus the mortality rate observed during the last two years has been very low indeed, 'e.g., not more than 2 per cent. as against about 20 per cent observed initially. Attempts were made during the last year to protect the population by vaccinating them with a vaccine produced from one of the strains of RSS group of viruses. This was attempted because

it was found to be useful in combating similar infections in other parts of the world. Experience, however, has shown that this vaccine is not of much use in preventing the disease. It has now been found that the virus prevalent in Shimoga is not identical with the one prevalent in other parts of the world. Attempts are now being made to prepare the vaccine from the local strain of the virus causing the disease. Work in this respect has just begun.

UNITED NATIONS EVALUATION MISSION ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

***328. SHRI HARIHAR PATEL:** Will the Minister of COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the first United Nations Evaluation Mission on Community Development has submitted its report to Government;

(b) if so, what are the main features of the report; and

(c) what are its recommendations, if any?

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE MINISTER OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI S. D. MISRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). A brief note giving the salient features of the report is placed on the Table of the House and the copies of the report have already been placed in the Parliament Library. [See Appendix XXVII, Annexure No. 17.]

BERTHS IN THE AIR-CONDITIONED COACH OF THE TRIVANDRUM EXPRESS

***329. SHRI S. C. KARAYALAR:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of berths which are usually available in the air-conditioned coach of the Trivandrum Express running between Madras and Trivandrum;